

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 1, insert -- BACKGROUND -- between the title and line 1.

On page 1, line 26 insert -- SUMMARY -- .

On page 3, line 31, insert -- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS -- .

On page 4, line 15, insert -- DETAILED DESCRIPTION -- .

On page 12, replace the abstract starting on line 1 with the following rewritten abstract:

An apparatus for preparing coffee includes a holder (4) provided with an access opening (24) for placing a pouch filled with a product to be extracted into the holder (4); a cover (34) for closing and releasing the access opening (24); a clamping means arrangement (70) for pressing the holder (4) and cover (34) towards each other when the cover (34) closes off the access opening (24) of the holder (4); and a closing means arrangement (80) for retaining the cover (34) and the clamping means arrangement (70) in position when the cover (34) closes off the access opening (24) of the holder (4). The closing means arrangement (80) are is mechanically coupled to the clamping means arrangement (70) for bringing the clamping means arrangement (70) from a non-clamping condition into a clamping condition by manually operating the closing means arrangement (80) from a first defined position to a second defined position.

Fig. 1